

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /088 W

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R 210912Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7747

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 16729

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJ: THAI/DRV CULTURAL EXCHANGES

REF : A. FBIS D181604Z OCT 74 B. FBIS D191419Z OCT 74

C. FBIS D200335Z OCT 74 D. FBIS D210225Z OCT 74

E. FBIS D210236Z OCT 74 F. BANGKOK 16547

1. WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO REF A WHICH IS A HANOI VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) ITEM RESPONDING TO THE RTG STATEMENT THAT THE RTG LOOKS FORWARD TO A CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH THE DRV. THE VNA ITEM QUOTES A DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC FOR THE THAI ADMINISTRATION WITH ITS HOSTILE POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM AND INDOCHINA, TO TALK OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE DRV SPOKESMAN ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THE "PEOPLES" OF THAILAND AND NORTH VIETNAM IS POSSIBLE.

2. REF B REPORTS REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN FOLLOWING THE DRV SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT. CHARUNPHAN SAID THAT CONTACTS MAY BE CARRIED OUT IN BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

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UNOFFICIAL WAYS, THAT THAILAND IS READY TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS

WITH THE DRV BUT WILL NOT RUSH INTO THEM, AND THAT THE
DRV RESPONSE TO THAILAND'S POSITION WAS A "GOOD SIGN."

3. REF C IS AN OCTOBER 20 "BANGKOK POST" STORY WHICH
QUOTES DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN AS
SAYING: " NO MATTER WHAT NORTH VIETNAM SAYS, THAILAND WANTS
AND IS READY TO BE HER FRIEND."

4. REFS D AND E ARE OCTOBER 21 EDITORIALS IN THE "BANGKOK
POST" AND "THE NATION". BOTH NEWSPAPERS VIEW HANOI'S
RESPONSE AS DEMONSTRATING THE DRV'S TOUGH, UNCOMPROMISING
POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH THAILAND, BUT THEY NEVERTHELESS
URGE THE RTG TO CAUTIOUSLY PURSUE WHATEVER CONTACTS WITH
NORTH VIETNAM ARE POSSIBLE.
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